

**REMARKS**

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed 2 April 2009, as extended (where applicable) under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 by payment of corresponding extension of time fees.

A Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and the corresponding fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) are submitted herewith.

Claims 1, 4-13 and 16-24 were pending prior to this paper. In this response, the Applicant has:

- cancelled claims 5, 7-11, 17-19 and 24;
- amended claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 13, 16, 20 and 21-23; and
- added new claims 25-40.

The amendments and new claims are submitted to be completely supported by the application as originally filed and to add no new matter.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21-23 and 25-40 are pending after this amendment.

Claims 1, 6, 12 and 26 are independent.

The Claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention and to address the objection that the features of claims 18 and 19 were already present in claim 6.

All of the independent claims, as now being presented, recite a post base comprising:

an inner structural member made of a first material  
completely encased within a surface member made of a second  
material different than the first material, the inner  
structural member having top and bottom surfaces and  
apertures extending through the inner structural member  
between the top and bottom surfaces, the surface member  
having portions extending through the apertures, the post

base having a top surface, a bottom surface and a plurality of bores extending between the top and bottom surfaces of the post base through the portions of the surface member, the bores completely lined by the second material of the surface member.

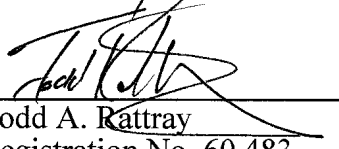
The Applicant submits that the prior art of record in this application, including Platt, neither discloses nor suggests a post base having such characteristics.

Conclusion

The Applicant looks forward to receiving favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the amendments presented herein.

Respectfully submitted,  
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